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"Newspaper Notes, a Continuation: The Texas Methodist Newspapers, 1878-1879." *Chronicles of Smith County, Texas* 38 no. 2 (Winter 1999): 19-29.

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# The Texas Methodist Newspapers

by Vicki Betts

Since both early Marvin United Methodist Church records and early Tyler newspapers are virtually nonexistent, my study of Marvin Church prior to 1900 necessitated a study of the Texas Wesleyan Banner and Texas Christian Advocate for that period. Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University owns the microfilm for the denominational newspaper for 1851-1861, 1872-1900, and they lent it to the University of Texas at Tyler for study.

This series of articles reprints excerpts from these newspapers pertaining to Smith County, whether religious or secular in nature. Included are accounts of revivals and railroads, schools and crops, deaths and marriages. These excerpts continue the effort to fill in the gap caused by the burning of the Tyler newspaper office in the early twentieth century.

This issue presents articles appearing in the available copies of the Texas Christian Advocate from 1878 to 1879.

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## January 5, 1878

The East Texas University at Tyler has been sold under a mortgage by the East Texas Fire Insurance Company.

## January 19, 1878

The Tyler Democrat says the people of Smith county, and especially the farmers, are financially in a better condition than at any time since the war.

## March 9, 1878

Tyler Courier: Several residences are being built in this city. Lumber is cheap and hence the inducement to build. An election for city officers is to take place on the first Tuesday in April. E. S. & P. W. Rowland received this week 250 dozen eggs.

## April 6, 1878

The Tyler Courier suggests a game law for Texas--as "deer are killed for pastime, and the buffalo cannot hold out many years."

Turkey hunting and fishing the rage in Smith county. Corn 50 cents. A fine prospect for fruit crop.

## May 11, 1878

The Tyler Courier reports hundreds of negroes in that city in sight of starvation, and yet work at fair wages is offered to them on every side. They are in a state of chronic contentment.

## May 11, 1878

The Tyler Democrat, alluding to the failure of church members to pay their preachers, remarks: "If there is any one thing in a civilized country for which people ought to be willing to pay liberally, it is the privileges of the church, the restraining and ennobling influences of the gospel and the work of the ministry."

#### Aug. 3, 1878

Bro. Samuel D. Wrogg, of Caledonia, Smith county, says: "I must say that I can not do without the ADVO-CATE. I am determined to be a paying subscriber to it as long as I live. I have been a reader of all our church papers. I look upon the TEXAS ADVOCATE as being equal, if not superior, to any of them."

#### August 24, 1878

The fair at Tyler, Smith county, will commence on the 15th of October and close on the 19th. Mechanics seem to be busy making improvements in various portions of the city. As many as four new business houses will be opened out in this city in September next.

#### Sept. 7, 1878

We have spent a most delightful week at Tyler. A more genial, hospitable people are seldom encountered in any land. The congregation worshipping in our church under the pastoral charge of Dr. Finley, is one of the most intelligent we have ever addressed. The courts which hold their sessions at this point have gathered strong legal talent around it, and many who rank high at the bar and in the political world are regular attendants on his ministry. The quarterly conference embraces some members whose names are familiar to the entire State. It was refreshing to mark the prompt and business like manner in which they attended to the temporal interests of the church. The church building has a seating capacity of about six hundred, and was well filled during the week we have spent among them. There is inspiration in the presence of an attentive congregation. An excellent and well-trained Sunday-school, under the superintendency of Col. Bonner, is doing good work. With its well-filled churches, its moral community, its social advantages, and its superior educational facilities, Tyler possesses attractions which but few of our inland cities can claim.

#### Sept. 7, 1878

Rev. R. S. Finley, Tyler, Sept. 3: "A good meting is in progress in Tyler. It is growing in interest daily. Conversions have been clear and satisfactory, and penitents still throng the altar. Dr. John has been with us more than a week, and his ministrations have been blessed. He is high in the esteem and in the affections of our people. We are laboring to and for a thoroughly evangelical work--contradistinguished from that effervescent, sensational type, from the effects of which God deliver us. We ask the Prayers and help of all good People."

Rev. I. S. Ashburn: "The first camp-meeting on Garden Valley circuit was a gracious success; one thousand people in attendance on the first Sunday; 50 conversions; twenty-two joined the church, and ten promised to hold family prayer regularly for one year. The church was greatly revived. Two very old men were converted. One had not been to church before in three years. Both were great sinners. Arrangements were made to have a permanent camp-ground. O how happy and thankful we all are over the results! God be praised."

#### September 14, 1878

As the freight train due at Troupe on the evening of September 9th reached a spot four miles south of that place, some one fired from a caboose into a crowd on the roadside shattering a negro's arm, necessitating amputation, and wounding a section man in the shoulder and Andrew Copeland in the leg. A negro has been burglarizing Jacksonville, and it is supposed some one was after him. The parties shot are innocent.

#### Oct. 19, 1878

The corner-stone of the building to be erected by the Odd Fellows at Tyler was laid on the 10th with the impressive services attending the ceremony.

#### Oct. 26, 1878

The East Texas Fair Association has been quite successful in its exhibit held in Tyler.

#### Oct. 26, 1878

YELTON.-J. R. B. Yelton, son of Rev. J. L. and Florida Yelton, was born August 3 1874; departed this life Sept. 29, 1878, aged 4 years 1 month and 23 days. Little Barkly was taken with congestion on Saturday evening, and died Sunday night. He suffered a great deal, until his parents, in their prayers, resigned him to their Heavenly Father, and besought that the sufferings of their child would end. His last moments were passed without a struggle, and with no apparent pain. Barkly was an unusually promising child, with very quick perception for one of his age. Was often anxious to know of the Lord's dealings with his creatures. Now he is where the goodness of God will unfold to him continually. Thus death has robbed Brother and Sister Yelton of their only son. But he has only passed over the river to join his little sister and await the coming of his parents. The parting

here causes the heart to bleed with many lonely hours of waiting and wishing, yet if borne with patience and resignation, the meeting and reunion on the shores of eternity will more than compensate.

“Safe in the arms of Jesus,  
Safe on His gentle breast:  
There by His love o’er shadowed  
Sweetly his soul shall rest.”

E. S. WILLIAMS

MT. SYLVAN, Oct. 12, 1878.

#### Nov. 2, 1878

Troupe Circuit.

Our fourth quarterly meeting, which was held at Henry’s Chapel, closed a few days ago. Rev. R. W. Thompson, our presiding elder, was, as he always is, on hand, preaching with his usual zeal and power, winning many hearts to the love of Christ by the ministry of the Word of God. Oh, may he long be spared to the church that he may bless her sons with the gospel!

The meeting continued until the Thursday following, resulting in seven conversions and eight accessions by ritual to the M. E. Church, South, and the membership greatly strengthened in the faith and set out anew to make sure work for heaven.

The meeting at Oak Grove resulted in six conversions and seven accessions, with the members much warmed and edified.

At Pleasant Grove, four conversions and four accessions. Here the people gave glory to God, took courage, and journeyed anew toward the promised land.

At Good Springs, one accession. The church at this place took a higher degree in the faith of the gospel.

At New Hope, three conversions and four accessions.

At Asbury Chapel, three conversions and two accessions. All said it was one of the best meetings known there for many years past.

Bro. Berry Duke, local deacon, held a protracted meeting of several days at Gant’s schoolhouse, resulting in twelve conversions and fourteen accessions. This point was outside of my circuit--in fact, it was not in the regular bounds of any work.

We have held several protracted meetings in which there were no conversions, but the membership everywhere very much revived; in fact, all round the work the members are much encouraged, and are hopeful.

Finances behind, but promising well. I think we will be able to exhibit a fair report at conference. But I have not succeeded as well for the ADVOCATE as I expected and desired. We consider the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE a power in the land. Oh, that every member of the church would take it! for it is truly a messenger of love and of mercy to all.

J. S. MATHIS.

#### November 9, 1878

Reminiscences of a Texas Itinerant.

The fifth session of the East Texas Conference was held at Paris, in November, 1849; Bishop Paine presiding....I soon moved to Palestine, the head of the district, where the kind friends gave me a piece of land....During this year (1850), there was a heavy immigration from the “States” to the counties of Anderson, Cherokee and Smith, indeed to all Eastern Texas. It was not uncommon in traveling through those counties to find families in camps, while they were cutting logs to build cabins, clearing lands, etc. There were no vacant houses to be obtained, or lands to be rented--all had been taken in the fall. The population in several counties had been doubled in that single year. This gave a large increase to our membership, and stirred and quickened the energies of the church. Our great drawback was the want of houses of worship of sufficient capacity and comfort to accommodate the congregation. We had some gracious revivals of religion on the district. The membership increased about one hundred per cent. Long will I, with others, remember some of the camp-meetings of this season. Many souls passed from death into life.

More anon. J. W. F.

#### Nov. 23, 1878

TYLER, TEXAS, Nov. 15, 1878.--You may say to the lovers of Zion that the Lord has been with us on the Starrville circuit and to some extent blessed our labors. About forty have professed religion during the year and seventy-five joined the church.—JOHN ADAMS.

Nov. 23, 1878

At midnight on Saturday last, fire was discovered in a building on the north side of the public square at Tyler. Two large stores were burned, together with the United States courtrooms and all books and papers. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Jan. 4, 1879

TROUPE, TEXAS, December 17.--Lectured here last night. A council of United Friends of Temperance was organized; eleven male and all the ladies present joined. A. A. Copeland, W. P., and G. B. Pope, W. S. Four bar-rooms in this place; hence temperance work much needed.--J. Y.

Jan. 4, 1879

TYLER-LINFLATT, TEXAS, Dec. 19.--I was invited, while attending our delightful conference session, to visit the Novelty Foundry, Bro. Blair, a most excellent gentlemen, proprietor, in company with several of the preachers. Bro. B. well deserves the liberal patronage of our Texas merchants and planters. He showed us an invention of his own, a combination plow, which embraces all the qualities of utility, durability and cheapness, making one stock do for all kinds of plowing, subsoiling, etc. By the way, I saw the blue ribbon of the Tyler Fair attached to one. Texans should encourage home enterprise, especially when as good, and cheaper than foreign.--E. C. FINLEY.

Jan. 18, 1879

TYLER, Jan. 2.-In my last communication, I referred to the kind reception the people of Marshall had given my successor in the Marshall station. I promised to write again on my arrival at Tyler. We are snugly ensconced in our new home. A delegation of mortal angels are bestirring themselves in a mysterious way in all parts of the house, while the new occupants are silently waiting and watching for results, but we are not to be long in suspense, for dinner is announced, and O, what a dinner! oyster-soup, turkey-gobbler, chicken "fixens," four "doings," and egg arrangements. Limited space will not allow us to give the dimensions of the boiled ham, or the quantity and quality of the third course served. Sisters Doraugh and Cain are supported by Misses Sallie Dennis and Lucy Ellis, in serving the viands, all of whom are exerting themselves to make us welcome and happy. But, sir, the half is not yet told. We shall ever remember the hospitable reception given us at the City Hotel on our arrival. This place is kept by Sister Henry, who has a place for every one who will entrust themselves to her care.

The ladies above mentioned, assisted by other friends, have set us up for living in our own house; from the store-room to the last bedroom, has been thoroughly furnished. Good things are in the pantry, good wishes are in their hearts and ours, and we are ready as preacher and pastor, to serve. So, Mr. Editor, you see the flints are still sending forth sparks. But more anon.--U. B. PHILLIPS.

Jan. 18, 1879

ADIEU.

Adieu to Tyler! thou lovely city! Beautiful for situation--in queenly attire and modest pretensions. She sits upon the highest altitude, midway between the Gulf of Mexico and the Northern boundary of the Lone Star State, where flows the famed river of the great West.

Surrounded by a country noted for the fertility of its soil, its flowing streams, its pure water and good timber, its healthfulness, the intelligence, industry, morality, generosity, and piety of its people. Tyler is the judicial centre of the East, where do congregate the magnates of the law and the ruling minds of the State. It is the home of the Governor and the ex-Governor; of an ex-Congressman and of an ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives; and of many distinguished gentlemen whose names modesty and space demand that we suppress in this place. It is the centre of intellectual wealth, where cultured minds vie with each other in lawful emulation in business-life. It now promises to become the Athens of the East, from which the pure streams of higher education shall flow out to elevate and bless the masses. It may become to the East what Athens was to Greece, the fountain of knowledge, law, and religion. Its noble men and lovely women are its jewels. They shine in unconscious brightness, and must be seen and intimately known to be appreciated. Its morality and religion are conspicuous. After a pastorate of five years in the city, we give it as our opinion that there is less of vice in its grosser forms in Tyler than in any place of its size in this, or any State of which we have knowledge. A very large majority of the young gentlemen and ladies are members of the church; and indeed there are but few heads of families who are not connected with some church. The Sabbath, in Tyler, is a day of quiet; undisturbed by noise or street commotions. It is unusual for the sanctity of the day to be marred by any gross trespass upon the refined religious sentiments of good people. The churches are thronged with well dressed, attentive congrega-



tions, in which there is the element of a true, intelligent devotion; from which there arises an aroma of spiritual fervor which is a sweet savor to the pulpit, warming into flame the zeal of the preacher.

The history of Methodism in Tyler during the last six years would form an interesting chapter for the ADVOCATE; but we could hardly write it without such allusions to self as we decline to make. We have been its pastor five years out of the six, and have, therefore, shared its perils and rejoiced in its triumphs.

Suffice it to say that we left the church in Tyler in a healthy state, with an official board of twelve stewards which will compare favorably with any board of any church in the State, or elsewhere. Noble, generous and wise, they are a power for good--the right arm of the pastor. God bless them!

We never preach farewell sermons; but we did preach our last sermon the Sabbath after conference with the single design to prepare the way for the new pastor, with the purpose of slipping away without any leave-taking; but while we were singing the last hymn, the retiring pastor was stormed and overwhelmed by hands and tears. It was purely spontaneous, and unexpected on his part, and equally so, doubtless, to others. To say that we love the church in Tyler is too cold and common place to express the deep wellings of our heart, stirred to its depths by the reminiscences of five years of Christian affection, cemented by the love of Christ; warmed into intense heat by a thousand united prayers and many songs and sermons. Blessed five years! the memory of them shall never lose its freshness; neither shall the pictures grow dim. While we now write, in the silent vigils of the last hour of the old year, we fancy ourselves in an art gallery all richly hung with pictures of scenes in that five years.

But stop! We are now in a new charge; we have been kindly received; a multitude swarms around us, and there is no time to lose ruminating over the past. The new year will be upon us in forty minutes. The living issues of the future rise up before us like unto a new continent. Let us pray. F.

#### Feb. 1, 1879

Troupe is at the junction of the Tyler branch of the International. Though much of its business has been diverted to other points by branch roads, it is a thriving village and has the trade of a good section of the country.

Our membership here is small, and our preachers are indebted to our Presbyterian brethren for a house of worship. We remember the day when our church generously opened its pulpits to the ministers of all other denominations, who were then unsupplied with houses of their own. We have been a liberal people. We not only opened our houses to other churches, but when they became organized, we contributed liberally toward the erection of houses for them. Now it is but right when, in many places we have left ourselves out in the cold, that these houses should be open to the Methodist preacher. We appreciate their kindness, yet we can but feel that we would have shown ourselves a wiser people, had our liberality in building churches for ourselves measured up to our generosity to other people.

As ye go, preach. On Tuesday night we met an appointment at Overton, the junction of the Henderson branch of the International. Our church building here is of good size, but not so neat in its appearance as is the Baptist church in the same place. Our membership is small; but from the earnest tone of the pastor in his exhortation, we feel assured the work will move on this year.

#### Feb. 8, 1879

TYLER, January 28.--With the exception of a few country members, I have visited and formed the acquaintance of the entire membership of Tyler station. I found every door open, every hand warm. We are hopeful, and expect a successful year. My worthy and beloved predecessor has cleared the ground, planted the seed; we hope to harvest an abundant fruitage. Many families are not taking the ADVOCATE, but promise to do better. Organized two missionary societies last Sabbath; will bring up full assessments.--U. B. PHILIPS.

#### Feb. 8, 1879

Judge Z. Norton, of Tyler, died last week....Five miles from Tyler a number of panthers are running loose, supposed to have been driven in by the cold. Neighborhood school broken up, as people fear for their children.

#### Feb. 15, 1879

TYLER, SMITH CO., Feb. 6.--The prolonged inclement weather is having its effect upon many of Tyler and vicinity. Several deaths from pneumonia. Visited to-day four families. Connected with them were five cases of pneumonia. Citizens alarmed at the number of rabid dogs in and around Tyler. A Mr. Cousins, living near here, was bitten a few days ago, and has since died. The marshal of our city has orders to kill all dogs upon the streets.--U. B. PHILIPS.

Feb. 22, 1879

POPE.--Died in Tyler, Texas, Jan. 20, 1879, in the fourteenth year of her age, Miss Emma A. Pope, daughter of W. A. Pope, of Troupe. Her death was unexpected--having left her father's home only a few days before, joyous and bright, to attend school at Tyler. "But in the midst of life we are in death." Emma had not made a profession of religion, but during the fourteen summers of her life that peculiar light that emanates from a Christian parents's life constantly shone upon her pathway, and no doubt had its saving effect upon her heart. She was the daughter of Christian parents, who endeavored to infuse into her soul the great principles of our holy religion. We believe parent and child will meet again in the realms of bliss to separate never again. We accompanied her remains to Troupe, where she awaits the resurrection morn.--U. B. PHILLIPS.

Mar. 1, 1879

A Tyler firm put up 300 tons of pure ice during the big freeze about Christmas and New Year.

Mar. 8, 1879

RHOME---Died, at Etna, Smith county, Texas, Feb. 5, 1879, in the 34th year of her age, Mrs. Ella Rhome, wife of Byron C. Rhome. It was not the good fortune of the writer to have met this estimable lady until sympathizing friends, with solumn tread, had borne her lifeless form to the gloomy chamber of her present resting place. It was there we met her, and with black-book in hand, read over her disfurnished tabernacle earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. We learned from those who knew her well and esteemed her much, that she possessed and practiced all the graces of a true and refined lady as well as the virtues of a disciple of Christ, and for fifteen years of marital life adorned the domestic circle as wife and mother with a brilliancy that the gloom of death will not soon eradicate. So sterling was her moral worth, that its impress was made upon husband and children, and for years to come will be the beacon light along life's troubled sea to guide them in the way of right. As we hang this wreath upon her broken urn, our prayers are lifted high in behalf of the smitten husband and the three motherless children who now mourn her death.

U. B. PHILIPS.

March 22, 1879

STARRVILLE, SMITH CO., March 13. If there was no license for the sale of intoxicating drinks in Texas, would it be necessary to build another penitentiary? Is it a violation of the laws of the M. E. Church, South, for a member to furnish money to keep a drinking saloon? Is there any circumstance which would excuse a person for the willful violation of such law? Bro. Wages is at his post, working in earnest--the right man for this work. He is well received, and we anticipate good results from his ministry.--LIZZIE J. SLAGLE.

March 22, 1879

TYLER, SMITH CO., March 10.--Starrville circuit, first quarter, every church represented. Salary of preacher in charge, \$500; presiding elder, \$100; paid on claim, \$243.20; good. J. R. Wages at work, to the pleasure of all the people. Sunday-schools are now to be revived. Railroad tax and want of harmony in political circles is causing many people to move out of the county. Thirty members lettered the last quarter. Lands are good. County healthy and the people moral.--R. W. THOMPSON.

April 5, 1879

TYLER, SMITH CO., March 28.--First round of quarterly meetings over. Preachers all at their posts and doing well; not only preaching, but visiting from house to house, giving special attention to the neglected families and members of their flocks. Results: An increase of family altars; better congregations, and improved finances. All honor to the good people of Tyler station. They paid at the first quarterly meeting one-half of their preachers' salaries, besides furnishing the parsonage, and raising their missionary assessments in full. Weather dry and warm.--J. ADAMS.

April 5, 1879

STARRVILLE, SMITH CO., March 25.--We have had six weeks without rain enough to wet the ground; corn not coming up well; garden seed lying in the drills, with no sign of germination. Some sickness--pneumonia, diphtheria and chills. In religious interests it is winter with us. Only a few attend prayer meeting. We will have classmeeting and Sabbath school soon. May the Day Spring from on high shed His beams of life-giving light into our hearts, and each member of the church at this place feel he is not his own--that he belongs to God. LIZZIE J. SLAGLE.

#### April 19, 1879

STARRVILLE, Smith Co., April 8.--The dry weather continues. Several deaths recently from pneumonia. Frost on the 3d inst. The prospect rather gloomy for farmers. If the present crop is a failure, there will be much destitution; all classes will suffer more or less. The credit system is a bad one. Living this year on what may be made another year has involved the people in debt. The heavy taxes and the State debt accumulating is not a flattering prospect truly. Retrenchment by those at the head of our political affairs, for an example, would encourage others. God help us as a people to live righteously.--LIZZIE J. SLAGLE.

#### May 10, 1879

TYLER, Smith Co., May 3.--I want to say something about our circuit and preacher. It has been my pleasure to hear Bro. Crouse preach five times, to our edification and comfort. He is well received in the northern portion of Larissa circuit. I have had the pleasure of visiting his home once in Larissa; like his family very much. The prospect on this circuit is brightening up for good.--E. R. LARGE.

#### May 31, 1879

STARRVILLE, Smith Co., May 22. The 13th of April we had rain. A good season; since we have had several seasons; some wind and hail; in some places the wind did considerable damage. General health good. Crops are better than expected; cotton is looking well; corn not so good; small grain middling, on an average. Brother Wages is doing good; an earnest, faithful pastor; a blessing to his charge. He is no respecter of persons--faithful to the cause of right and truth. May God bless his labors with the genial showers of divine grace.--LIZZIE J. SLAGLE.

#### May 31, 1879

CANTON, Smith Co., April 22.--Canton is a quiet village in the southern part of Smith county. The railroads have run all around us and taken all our saloons and street loungers away from us--would not care for that, if they had not taken our postoffice. We have three church organizations. The Baptists are the strongest, the Methodist next; Cumberland Presbyterians have a very small church. We have a Methodist Sabbath school numbering about sixty members, including officers and teachers. This school is destined to accomplish much for the cause of our Master. We have a union school which numbers about the same as ours. We have as much peace and unity among our religious people as I have witnessed in my life. We have an excellent church building, but I am sorry to say it is a union house. God bless the ADVOCATE and hasten the time when it shall find its way into all Methodist families in Texas.--T. H.

#### June 21, 1879

CANTON, Smith Co., June 2.--Methodist Sunday-schools.--Why can we not have a Methodist Sunday-school in every town and community where we can get ten children? We can if we will. Some say that it will not do in a unionhouse, nor where Methodists are in the minority. Let me tell about our school in Canton: About two months ago we organized with about thirty members. The community is chiefly Baptist, and we have a union-house. There was a union school in operation with about sixty or seventy members when we organized. What is the result? We now have about seventy members, including officers and teachers. Those who opposed the move at first now send their children and give liberally to support our school. We asked our friends to give us a fair trial before condemning us, and the result is they are well pleased with our effort to save the youth of this community. If God be for us, who can be against us? Will our brethren all over Texas try this, especially on Overton and Troupe circuit? The ADVOCATE is a welcome visitor in our family.--C. D. WILSON.

#### June 21, 1879

Tyler, Smith Co., June 12.--Garden Valley circuit very dry; crop prospects very gloomy. Some religious interest. Twenty-five have joined the church since conference; seven infants baptized. Second quarterly meeting over. Finances low. Paid the preacher to date, \$85.50. Presiding elder in place. Have up to this time preached seventeen times on Garden Valley circuit, and the year but half gone. How is that for high? Will soon commence a series of protracted meetings.--C. H. SMITH.

#### July 5, 1879

##### BIRDWELL'S SCHOOL.

Prof. G. P. Birdwell's school, at Starrville, Smith county, closed the 20th inst., after a two days' examination. A more thorough, impartial examination I have never attended; reflecting honor on teacher and pupil. The professor is well qualified for the position--untiring in his efforts for the advancement of his scholars. Bros.



Thompson and Wages, at the close of the exercises, addressed the audience on education. The remarks were interesting and profitable.

LIZZIE J. SLAGLE.

July 12, 1879

TYLER, Smith Co., July 4.--Picnic yesterday; nice time for awhile; some of us got wet; there were about two hundred and fifty people; nice dinner; expected fish; didn't see any; it was at the big lake on Neches river. Some corn is almost a failure, but the most is fine; cotton promising. Good lands and clever people. Bro. Crouse will commence his protracted meetings to-morrow. The church has an upward tendency. Hope he will have a glorious revival all round the circuit.--E. K. LARGE.

July 12, 1879

OVERTON AND TROUPE, Rusk Co., July 1.--Health good. Delightful showers of rain have raised the spirits of our people. Corn crops sufficient to supply local demand. Cotton crop looks well. A splendid mast. Religious prospects encouraging, but no revivals; one Methodist chapel within the bounds of this otherwise lovely little charge; one Sabbath-school. We are praying and hoping for revivals. Our people love the ADVOCATE, its editors and publishers. Our temporal wants are met. O that God would bless this good people more abundantly.--F. M. STOVALL.

July 12, 1879

OLD CANTON, Smith Co., July 4.--A fact appears in last week's ADVOCATE, signed Parson, about stewards not doing their duty. I will give the good Parson another fact: Stewards have been around to see all the members and friends of the church, but the pastor has not; steward calls for quarterage; they tell him the pastor must come and see them first; he has four or five leisure days in each week. I once heard a sister say that the pastor had not been in her house for eight or ten years, although she lived within four hundred yards of the church. (She was poor.) But the stewards have called on her quarterly. Is this an isolated case? I tell you, nay. C. L. WILLSON.

Aug. 2, 1879

OLD CANTON, Smith Co., July 22. Our pastor, Bro. F. M. Stovall, is stirring around among the people, looking after his flock. He says he will find his way into the house of every Methodist in this community, when he gets around I will report the fact to his credit, as it will be something that no pastor has done for many years, if ever. He is trying to get his brethren to have their own Sunday-schools, instead of union so-called; he has only succeeded at one place, Canton. Our school is gladdening the hearts of many children; our prospects are bright.--C. S. WILSON.

August 23, 1879

Reminiscences of a Texas Itinerant.

Number Eleven.

The Tyler circuit, to which I was appointed in 1854, numbered some eighteen or twenty regular appointments, now included in Starrville, New Salem, Garden Valley and Tyler station.

As I learned from the presiding elder, Bro. Fisher, the object of my being appointed to this circuit was to build a Methodist house of worship at Tyler during the year; and as the next session of the conference was to be held there, I felt that no small responsibility rested on my shoulders. But how was this brick to be made without straw? was the question. When I tested the financial strength of the membership, I found it utterly inadequate to the task. I learned that the Masonic fraternity designed building a lodge-room, and though not a Mason, proposed to unite with them to build conjointly. The proposition was accepted, a joint committee appointed, and the work in due time commenced. In order to keep the methodist corner up, after procuring all the aid I could in town and county, I made a begging tour to Marshall, Jefferson and country around, obtaining a few hundred dollars, which gave the enterprise a new start upwards; and by conference we had our part of the house seated and ready for opening exercises, etc. This, under the circumstances, I considered a great triumph. Indeed, I was proud of it. I think we had, all told, about a half dozen male members, and they were plucky, but unfortunately poor. My wife turned agent during the session of the Supreme Court and solicited money to purchase a bell and seat the house.

It pleased the Lord to visit us with a gracious revival before the new house was finished, at which some thirty to forty souls were converted. Among the number I am glad to mention the name of Bro. Vic. Parsons, editor of the Pacific Methodist. We had also times of refreshing at other places, among them Chappell Hill, Center

campground, etc. On this circuit were several local preachers of marked ability, zeal, and usefulness. These men of God co-operated with their pastor mainly, and to a large extent the church was indebted to the former more than the latter for the good accomplished. May the day never come when there shall be any friction in this one body of two orders of the Methodist ministry. It would indeed be a sad day to our beloved Methodism. No church is so much blessed as ours in her ministry--especially in the superabundance of her free, gratuitous ministrations. Our local preachers in many instances do as much preaching gratuitously as the ministers of some churches I wot of for fair salaries. Brethren in the regular pastoral work and ye laymen, let us see that this honored class among us be duly respected and appreciated. "Honor to whom honor," etc.

The quarterly conference of this circuit at that day, in point of numbers and intelligence, would have compared favorably with an annual conference. The presiding elder was struck with the fact, as well as the preacher in charge; indeed it impresses me yet.

The circuit made ample provision for the support of her pastor. I had not been at Tyler two days till I was called upon by the noble Jo. McDougal (steward) and asked what we wanted. The answer was corn; the next a wagon load came. But to mention names would swell the list too long. This pastor never served a more appreciative people. And when conference commenced they seemed to vie with each other as to who should or could help the preacher and his wife most. One sent a servant girl to help the wife, another sent provision, and another, and still they came till the preacher had to say stop, for we are full and running over. God bless that people. Indeed, many of them are already blessed; for they are in heaven.

As an evidence of the big good things sent us at conference, Bishop Early determined to carry one of the big yams all the way to his Virginia home, to show it to his good wife.

I was candidate for reappointment to this circuit, but failed to be elected; the Bishop degraded me by placing me on a district as presiding elder. But I endured it as best I could. More anon.

J. W. F.

#### Aug. 30, 1879

GARDEN VALLEY, Smith Co., Aug. 21.--The Lord has revived His work on this circuit. Up to date there have been 42 conversions and 43 accessions to the M. E. Church, South. Three other camp-meetings and several protracted to come off yet. We hope and pray God will give us 200 conversions on the Garden Valley circuit this year. We aim to get you 50 subscribers to the ADVOCATE in the mean time.--C. H. SMITH.

#### Sept. 13, 1879

GARDEN VALLEY, Smith Co., Sept. 2.--The Lord is still reviving His work on Garden Valley circuit. Edom camp-meeting closed last Thursday night; lasted six days. The most wonderful meeting I ever saw; for the last day or two you could hardly stop them day or night; 20 joined the Methodist Church, South; others will join. There were probably 65 converted.--C. H. SMITH.

#### Sept. 20, 1879

GARDEN VALLEY, Smith Co., Sept. 8.--Union Chapel and Garden Valley camp-meeting closed last Friday night; lasted just one week; church wonderfully revived; 57 conversions; 50 accessions to the M. E. Church, South. My local preachers did nobly. Bros. Wm. A. Smyth, Marler and McDow were nearly all the help I had. In the last two weeks, 122 conversions and 70 accessions; 164 conversions to date. One more campmeeting to hold.--C. H. SMITH.

#### Sept. 27, 1879

##### Ministerial Support.

The meeting which was in progress for nearly two weeks at this place, closed on Friday night last. There were four professions and five additions to the church. Such of the members of the church as were in regular attendance derived solid comfort from the services. We feel that the church in Tyler has been substantially strengthened under the labors of Bro. Philips. He is, indeed, a man of but one work--an earnest, faithful preacher of the Gospel. Bro. John Adams, our presiding elder, and Bro. J. R. Wages, pastor of the Starrville circuit, were present, and preached acceptably to our people.

Our third quarterly conference was held September 1. We are up with our finances. Our missionary collections here have been made in full. Our presiding elder's claim for the whole year has been paid, and three-fourths of our pastor's salary for the year has been paid in cash....

T. R. BONNER.

TYLER, September 8, 1879.

October 4, 1879

OLD CANTON, Smith Co., Sept. 22.--I believe I have seen but one man in this community who was opposed to the Sunday law, and he is no extraordinary man. All good men say they are going to drop the Tyler Courier, because it opposes the law; also they will not subscribe to the Galveston News, because of its immorality and Catholicism.--C. L. WILSON.

Oct. 4, 1879

RUSH---Mrs. Tennessee Rush, daughter of John and Martha Blair, was born near Nashville, Tennessee, July 26, 1809, and departed this life in Tyler, Smith county, Texas, July 17, 1879. At twelve years of age she sought and found the pearl of great price and attached herself to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and for fifty-eight years, amid joys and sorrows, remained faithful and true. She was twice married--first to Wm. M. Seaton. Her second marriage was to James M. Rush. Thirty-two years ago she came to the then wilderness wilds of Texas, and settled in Hunt county. Afterwards she removed to Tyler, Smith county, where she remained until she went to heaven. Thirty years ago, when Tyler was but a country village, she, with several others, became the charter members of a Methodist society, and from that time until her release from the infirmities of mortality her lamp was trimmed and burning. During her last illness, when disease was rapidly breaking to pieces her earthly tabernacle, it was indeed strengthening to the faith of the writer to hear her speak of the assurance of her acceptance and the bright prospect ahead of eternal life. In hanging this wreath upon her broken Urn we would remark: "Earth is poorer by her exit," but our loss is her eternal gain. Peace be to her ashes and farewell to her soul, until the resurrection morn, when we will meet never to part again.--U. B. PHILLIPS.

Oct. 11, 1879

OLD CANTON, Smith Co., Oct. 2.--I hope all the stewards will read and ponder well Bro. T. R. B.'s article on ministerial support, in ADVOCATE of September 27. He makes some wise suggestions. In addition to the suggestion of Bro. B., I will offer the following: Our preachers can render great assistance to the stewards by going round before them to see all the members of the church. I do not mean to say that he can visit all of them before the first quarterly conference, but he can employ all of his idle time in that way. The stewards can forcibly remind the preacher of this by stating to him in plain and unmistakable terms, that they will not collect any quarterage from Methodist families he does not visit. Do this and the result will be, we will have such a hunting up of old rusty methodists as you never did see. The time has come when we should look well to the support of our preachers, and then claim their whole time.--C. LEE WILSON.

Oct. 18, 1879

LINDALE, Smith Co., Oct. 11.--The Lord is still reviving His work on Garden Valley circuit. At our Edom meeting which lasted three days, we had four conversions and five accessions. We had quite a revival at our camp-meeting at Tunnel's Chapel. It lasted six days; the first two days it was raining, but during the last four we had forty-three or forty-four conversions, forty-two accessions; twenty-six joined the Methodist Church and sixteen the Cumberland Presbyterian. This was a union meeting.--C. H. SMITH.

Nov. 8, 1879

GARDEN VALLEY, Smith Co., Oct. 29.--My camp and protracted meetings all over but one for this year. Results to date: The preacher a happy, though laborious, year's work; many Christians made happy; backsliders and luke-warm members revived; 252 made a profession, 201 have joined the M. E. Church, South, and several others will join on my last round; have paid the assessment to conference collection; have paid Bishop's fund; have bought \$300 worth of books, and taken about fifty copies of the ADVOCATE. --C. H. SMITH.

Nov. 29, 1879

Minutes of the East Texas Annual Conference of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in America.  
Appointments.

Tyler District-M. F. Jamison, P. E.; Overton circuit, Wm. Taylor; Starrville circuit, W. R. Grendy; Mount Zion circuit, R. A. Hogler; Harmony, I. Stephens....

Dec. 20, 1879

STARRVILLE, Smith Co., Dec. 11.--There is joy on the Starrville circuit--thanks to the Bishop, the presiding elder, the preacher and Shaw & Blaylock--for the return of our highly esteemed pastor, J. R. Wages, for another year. We like all the preachers, but we needed Bro. Wages particularly for another year; some of his appointments especially, there being an element he could control better than any other man in the conference. We are all glad--saint and sinner--except the shadow of a minority.--L. J. S.

December 20, 1879

A Letter from a Preacher's Wife.

Permit me through the columns of the *ADVOCATE* to return thanks to dear Bishop McTyeire and his cabinet for having returned my husband to the Tyler station (and Bro. John Adams to the Palestine district), and sealing my destiny for the year 1880 just as I desired. While I am willing to accompany my dear husband to any field of labor that the wisdom of the presiding Bishop and his cabinet would, in the fear of God, see fit to send him, it would indeed have been a great trial to have separated from the dear, good people of Tyler. I have been the wife of an itinerant preacher for a number of years; have accompanied him on hard missions, long circuits, and in stations; and have made friends in Alabama, Mississippi and Texas--many of whom I will never see again until the great itinerant army shall with triumphant rejoicings meet with their flocks in the city of God. But it has never been my fortune to be associated with a people who excelled those of Tyler for kindness and attention to their preacher and his wife.

I deeply regret that my health has been such that I could not mingle with them more than I have. We turn the leaf that introduces us into the labors of the new conference year with high hopes and prayers to our Heavenly Father to give us success in all departments of the church intrusted to our care.

Hoping that the wives of the preachers of the East Texas Conference are as happy as the writer, and that they will so express themselves, I commit this missive to your care, with my permission, if it does not meet your wishes, to commit it to the waste basket.

MOLLIE I. PHILIPS.

TYLER, Smith County, Texas, Dec. 9, 1879.

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## Book Note by Andrew L. Leath

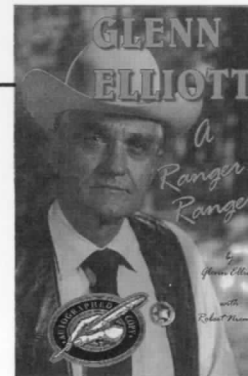
Glenn Elliott (with Robert Nieman). Glenn Elliott, A Ranger's Ranger. Waco, TX: Texian Press, 1999. Hardback, 285+xiv pages.

The Texas Rangers of the nineteenth century are known worldwide, mainly through true and fictional accounts in books and movies. But the Texas Rangers of the twentieth century, while they may drive automobiles rather than ride horses, still tell fascinating tales. Glenn Elliott served as a Texas Ranger from 1961 to 1987 and the true tales he tells are worth reading.

Elliott was born in Fannin County, Texas, was raised in a small town, and served in World War II. One of his school teacher/coaches had left teaching to go into law enforcement, and this was Elliott's influence to enter the same career.

After the war he was variously employed until joining the Texas Highway Patrol in 1949. He was assigned to Longview which became his permanent home. Two chapters hold the reader's attention with various interesting incidents during his highway patrol career.

Elliott highly respected several men who were Texas Rangers, sought the position, and was appointed a Ranger in 1961. Robert Nieman fills the next nine chapters with short vignettes about Elliott's career as a Ranger based in Longview. Some are local crimes, some are better known



stories such as the Lone Star Steel strikes and the Kentucky Fried Chicken murders. Elliott's recall of details is remarkable.

Other small tidbits tell us that Elliott was in Dallas the day of President Kennedy's assassination, that he was assigned to Tyler during the Billy Sol Estes trial, and that Paul Harvey paid tribute to him in his news broadcast the day Elliott retired in 1987. The book's title comes from other Rangers' assessment of their respected peer.

Glenn Elliott's territory as a Texas Ranger did not include Smith County, though several stories have a connection to Tyler and Smith County, and favorable mention is made of our local law enforcement personnel. Smith Countians will recognize the subjects of many stories. The book gives an excellent view of the law enforcement techniques used over those four decades.

After reading the book, you, too, will come to respect Glenn Elliott. You will have a better picture of what it takes to be a Texas Ranger. And Texans will be even prouder that their state has such a great organization.